

to sell every thing I possess but to give him the power of ruining us in his own way I cannot consent to—It will be sufficiently disagreeable to submit to a loss of property, but a total loss of Credit would be a thousand times more so—However [3] I can as well afford to lose both as you can, and if ruin is your object, Have at you—Baldwin will take in the 50 Bl^s Corn I have here & call on A. [Amos] Johnston²⁰ for more, but what the quantity or on what acco^t. I don't know—he will call in consequence of a message from Johnston by Maj^r. Gerrard²¹—a hh^d. or two of your Jamaica Rum may perhaps answer at the price mentioned & Sugar will always be acceptable—Your advice respecting Tob^o. & other articles shall be duly attended to—

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount Esquire
Merchant
Washington

per Mr. Jones

*Benjamin Hawkins²² to William Blount
with an Insert from [William Blount] to [John Gray Blount]*

WARREN²³ 30th Jan^y. at night

My dear friend!

As Mr. Falkener²⁴ is on his way to New, Berne and it is more than probable he will call and pay his respects at your house, I am set a scribbling

²⁰Amos Johnston. He was the son of Jacob Johnston and was an active merchant at Town Creek, North Carolina. He was one of the Blounts' best customers and was associated with them in numerous business deals.

²¹Charles Gerrard was born in Beaufort County and was closely identified with the Blounts in many different capacities. He sometimes managed the store at Tarborough when Thomas Blount was in Congress, and at other times he made various deals for them including land purchases, collection of debts, or collection of cargoes when they were loading a vessel. He went into the mercantile business at Tarborough with Edward Hall. At his death he bequeathed extensive lands to charity. See *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, for letters from Gerrard. His obituary occurs in the *Norib Carolina Journal*, October 16, 1797.

²²For a sketch of Hawkins see *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 32n. 2.

²³Warren County in the extreme northern part of North Carolina—lying along the border of Virginia. Warren had at least two noted sons—Benjamin Hawkins and Nathaniel Macon of later prominence.

²⁴William Falkener was of English origin. He is said to have come to this country around 1780. He established first an academy for boys. John Gray Blount sent his son, Thomas H. Blount to the Warrenton school. William Falkener to John Gray Blount, November 4, 1795, John Gray Blount Papers (North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh). Falkener later (1802) established a seminary for young women in the same community. According to Lizzie Wilson Montgomery: "He might be called the Founder of Seminaries for the education of young ladies in this section of the country." *Sketches of Old Warrenton* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Company, 1924), 129, 131, 132, 170. He was spoken of as a cultivated person and noted for his beautiful penmanship. Nevertheless, he was later charged with being a British spy. G. J. McRee, *Life and Correspondence of James Iredell* (New York: D. Appleton and Co., 2 volumes, 1857), II, 242.